REMARKS

The Office Action of November 23, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

The present Amendment cancels claims 10-14. Accordingly, the rejection under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112 is now moot.

The present Amendment also revises claim 1 to specify 33 to 40 % by weight of a spherical silica powder and 25 to 30 % by weight of a glass fiber. These revisions are supported (for example) by Examples 1 and 2 in the application's Table 2. The Amendment modifies dependent claim 2 in view of the changes to claim 1, and cancels claim 4 as redundant in view of the changes.

Before proceeding further, it is appropriate to address the comment, at the middle of page 3 of the Office Action, that "applicant had considered the example 3 as an inventive example at the time of the invention, and now applicant asserts that it is not." The application as-filed states, "It is preferable that the content of the inorganic powder is particularly not less than 30 % by weight in the above-mentioned range so that the wear resistance of the resin pulley may be improved" (page 16, lines 2-6). In the application's Table 2, the percentage by weight of spherical silica powder in Example 3 is shown as 20. This is outside the preferred range, and the wear resistance shown in Table 2 for Example 3 is indeed inferior to the wear resistance for Examples 1 and 2. But it is better than the wear resistance for Comparative Examples 1, 2, 3, and 4. And the belt attacking properties and heat shock resistance of Example 3 are shown in Table 2 as "good."

The Office Action again rejects the claims for obviousness based on Asai in view of Isutsumi and "Handbook of Fillers." For the reasons discussed below, however, it is

respectfully submitted that the invention now defined by claim 1 is patentable over this prior art.

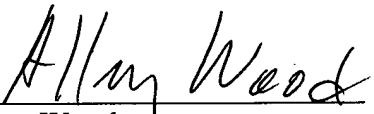
Among other limitations, claim 1 now recites that (1) a resin pulley has spherical silica powder in the amount of 33 to 40 % by weight, and (2) it has glass fiber in the amount of 25 to 30 % by weight.

It was common in prior art resin pulleys for the amount of reinforcing fiber to be larger than the amount of inorganic powder, since it was felt that embedding a large amount of fiber in the resin was needed for strength. For example, the amount of glass fiber is greater than the amount of silica powder in the examples and also the comparative examples in Asai's Table 1. In contrast to the prior art, the present inventors reduced the amount of glass fiber (which attacks belts) and compensated for this reduction by increasing the amount of silica powder. The result is a pulley with a reduced tendency to attack the belt, and with the pulley itself having good wear resistance as an added bonus. Wear resistance is significantly improved with the present invention (see Figure A in he Amendment that was filed on July 27, 2007).

Asai does not disclose or suggests the invention now defined by claim 1 , and the remaining two references do not supply what is missing from Asai. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. The remaining claims depend from claim 1 and are therefore automatically patentable along with it, so they need not be further discussed.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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